

REP. DAN ROACH

31ST DISTRICT MID-SESSION REPORT

2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**VETERAN CHUCK
LAWRENCE AND REP. DAN
ROACH WATCH AS GOV.
CHRISTINE GREGOIRE
SIGNS ROACH'S REST IN
PEACE ACT INTO LAW.**

REP. DAN ROACH

Olympia Office:
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7846

District Office:
5914 Graham Ave.
Sumner, WA 98390
(253) 863-0462

Toll-Free Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

E-mail: roach.dan@leg.wa.gov

Web Site:
www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Roach

RESPECT FOR OUR VETERANS

Washington Rest in Peace Act now law

Thanks to Vietnam veteran Chuck Lawrence and many other supporters of the Washington Rest in Peace Act, families will now have room to grieve at the funerals of their loved ones without interference of protest groups. House Bill 1168 requires protesters at funerals to remain at a distance of 500 feet or more or be charged with a misdemeanor under the state's disorderly conduct law. It was the first bill of the 2007 session to be signed into law.

Mr. Lawrence, a Bonney Lake resident, brought this issue to my attention last year after a hate group conducted protests at the funerals of military veterans in Yakima, Kirkland and Renton. The men and women of our armed services who have sacrificed their lives deserve to rest in peace, and their families deserve the respect to peacefully mourn their losses. Hopefully this law will ensure respect for our fallen soldiers and room for their families to grieve.

Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans

I was also proud to introduce legislation at the request of our Vietnam veterans. During the Vietnam War, a number of young people left high school before graduation to join the military and serve our country. State law allows World War II and Korean War veterans to receive their diplomas if they entered military service before graduating from high school. The measure I sponsored, House Bill 1283, would extend that privilege to Vietnam veterans who have not received their diplomas.

Our veterans have an extensive amount of real-world experience extending far beyond the walls of a classroom. They sacrificed for us. It is appropriate we give back to them. My bill passed the House unanimously and is moving through the Senate.

REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT



TAX RELIEF SOUGHT FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

In King County, the median price for a single-family home is \$430,000. In Pierce County, it is \$287,000. These high prices affect local property tax assessments. Many long-time home and property owners

are struggling with increasing property taxes. It didn't help last year when a King County judge struck down Initiative 747, the voter-approved measure which limited increases in regular property tax levies to 1 percent per year.

When the Legislature convened in January, the state treasury was sitting on a surplus of nearly \$2 billion. I felt that instead of creating larger, more expensive government programs with these funds, some of this money should be given back to those who earned it in the first place. I introduced House Bill 2272, a measure that sought to reinstate the 1 percent property tax levy limit and proposed a rebate of \$400 to every Washington property owner who paid taxes on their primary residence in 2006.

Unfortunately, despite my best efforts, a hearing was not granted to this bill.

A BOOST FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The toughest time for small businesses to succeed is within the first five years of operation. Start-up costs, combined with excessive taxes, make it very difficult for new small businesses to stay afloat.

To help more businesses succeed, I introduced legislation to provide tax relief. Small businesses with fewer than 25 full-time employees would be exempt from the B&O tax for the first two years of operations, and then have a rate that is gradually phased in over three years to the regular rate.

Small businesses provide jobs and are the backbone of our economy. That's why it is important to provide this support. Although House Bill 1516 received a hearing, it was held in committee without a vote. I will continue working on this issue to provide the tax relief small businesses need.



**REP. DAN ROACH WITH MEDAL OF VALOR
AWARD WINNER EDWARD MARSETTE**

AUBURN MAN AWARDED MEDAL OF VALOR FOR SELFLESS ACT

On the morning of March 15, 2006, Edward Marsette of Auburn awoke to the sound of explosions near his home. Without hesitation, he rushed outside to the scene of a car accident. In the face of melting parts and spreading flames, Edward risked his own life to pull three people from the burning wreckage. Despite suffering burns to his hands, leg and forearm, he returned once again in an attempt to save two remaining victims. Unfortunately, the flames and heat were too intense.

The state's Medal of Valor Award recognizes Washingtonians who, at risk of personal injury or death, have saved or attempted to save the life of another. It was a privilege to recommend Edward for this honor. He accepted the award during a joint legislative session Jan. 24 at the state Capitol.

DIAL 2-1-1

Need help but don't know where to turn? Dial 2-1-1 for caregiver and disability resources; emergency shelter; food and clothing; health care and support groups; rent assistance; transportation; volunteering and more. The number is effective in both King and Pierce counties.



REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

AIR MARSHALS SEEK ROACH'S HELP TO THWART TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

It's so easy to get a driver's license in Washington, a terrorist could do it. People are flying into Washington for the specific purpose of getting a driver's license. They have that license sent back to their out-of-state residence, and then use it to exchange for a license in the state where they live.

Federal air marshals at Sea-Tac were so concerned, they visited me at my office. I responded with House Bill 2367, the "Licensing Against Terrorists Act." The measure prohibits first-time applicants from having their licenses mailed to any out-of-state addresses. It exempts military personnel and legitimate Washington residents working out-of-state or overseas. This is a significant security breach that terrorists are exploiting. My legislation would help take the target off of Washington's back.

ROACH PROPOSES TOUGHER, MORE EFFECTIVE ID THEFT LAWS

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in Washington. For the past two years I've been working with the attorney general's office and the (Law Enforcement Group Against Identity Theft) LEGIT Task Force to find solutions to this problem. This year, I introduced several ID theft measures. They include:

- House Bill 1271 - Would save ID theft victims from traveling to different jurisdictions to file their cases.
- House Bill 1272 - Would expand the crime of ID theft in the first degree and increase charges for each crime committed.
- House Bill 1273 - Would allow financial institutions and merchants to share information with law enforcement without fear of liability.
- House Bill 1274 - Would allocate money through the attorney general's office to assist seniors and people with developmental disabilities with recovering from ID theft.
- House Bill 1275 - Would require out-of-state recipients of Washington criminal warrants to produce records in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

SHRED-A-THON IN SUMNER

Fight identity theft! Come to the LEGIT Shred-a-Thon, Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 822 Alder St. (former grocery lot), Sumner. Bring any sensitive documents you want shredded. Limit three grocery bags. For more information go to: www.atg.wa.gov/Shredathon.aspx

MEET WITH REP. ROACH!

Some lawmakers are holding "town hall meetings" in their districts to talk with citizens about current local issues. This year, in lieu of the larger meetings, I want to try something more personal. Through the remainder of this session I will be meeting one-on-one with citizens on Monday afternoons in our district. I believe it is important to be open and accessible to the people I serve. If you would like to schedule a Monday afternoon meeting with me, please call my office in Olympia at (360) 786-7846. Some of the best ideas for legislation come from you, the citizens. So bring your ideas, questions, or suggestions. I look forward to meeting with you!

INCREASING AUTISM AWARENESS; HELPING PARENTS, CHILDREN



Two years ago, when my young son was diagnosed with autism, my wife and I were at a loss about where to turn for information. We scoured the Internet and talked with other parents of autistic children. We found there is a lot of frustration because information about how to raise a child with autism does not come easy.

Autism is a neurological disorder that affects one out of every 150 kids. With more and more children diagnosed with autism, it's important resources are made available to parents, teachers and others who are associated with autistic children.

This year I introduced a package of legislation to increase autism research, provide help for parents, and set up special magnet schools for autistic children. House Bill 2195 would provide a tax credit to research and development firms studying autism. House Bill 2253 would make an autism awareness license plate available with the proceeds paying for a "life manual" to help parents with autistic children. House Bill 2290 would create autism magnet schools with teachers specially trained in educating autistic children.



REP. DAN ROACH

31ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

I'M HERE TO HELP!

Should you ever have questions, comments, suggestions or ideas about legislation or state government, let me know.

Olympia Office:

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600
(360) 786-7846

District Office:

5914 Graham Ave.
Sumner, WA 98390
(253) 863-0462

Toll-Free Legislative Hotline: 1-800-562-6000

E-mail: roach.dan@leg.wa.gov

Web Site: www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Roach

Committees:

Insurance, Financial Services and Consumer Protection
Education
Finance

Dear friends and neighbors,

March 2007

We're now past the halfway point of the 2007 legislative session and quickly entering the homestretch. Scheduled adjournment for the 105-day session is April 22. I would like to provide this quick update of legislation important to our local area that is moving through the process.

Please keep in mind that status of bills are rapidly changing by the day in Olympia. If you'd like to find out the latest information about education, transportation or other issues, I invite you to browse my website at:

www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Roach. From there, you can also e-mail me or sign up for my e-newsletter.

Your involvement is important as we work together to improve the quality of life for our families in the 31st District. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you!



P.S. To find out more about local transportation projects, go to **www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/roach/newsroom/transportationprojects.htm**. To see a list of proposed capital budget projects for our district, go to **www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/roach/newsroom/capitolprojects.htm**.

PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OLYMPIA WA
PERMIT NO 92

31ST DISTRICT MID-SESSION REPORT
2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DAN ROACH
REPRESENTATIVE
P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600